



Instructions No. (G / 29) for the year 2016
Import, Export and Trade of Agricultural Crops Seeds
Issued under Article 18 (b) of the Agriculture Law No. (13) for
the year 2015 and its amendments

Article (1)

These instructions are called "Instructions for Import, Export and Trade of Agricultural Crops Seeds for 2016" and shall come into effect from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

Subject to the definitions contained in Article (2) of the Agriculture Law No. (13) for the year 2015 and its amendments, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned to them below unless the context indicates otherwise:

Seed Company: Any facility licensed to import, export and trade seeds.

Seed shop: any facility licensed in order to sell and trade seeds.

Article (3)

It is not allowed to produce, import, trade or export seeds of vegetable varieties and their origins for commercial purposes for which such varieties are subject to registration unless they are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Article (4)

It shall be allowed to import the seeds of agricultural crops for the following categories:

- Seed companies: licensed by the Ministry without prior permission there from. The goods shall not be delivered to the importer unless the Ministry has given a delivery permit.
- Farmers: shall be allowed to import quantities of seed for unregistered varieties after obtaining prior permission of the ministry, approving the quantities, types, varieties and source of the seeds. This category shall

obtain a letter from the concerned agriculture manager indicating that they are known farmers and showing the areas to be cultivated. The seeds shall be received under a delivery permit granted by the ministry, and farmers are not allowed to trade in seeds.

C. Scientific and research institutions and regional experiments offices for foreign and Arab seed companies: shall be allowed to import quantities of seeds of registered and unregistered varieties, sufficient to their experimental purposes and after obtaining prior permission of the Ministry, approving the quantities, species, varieties and source of the seeds. The imported goods shall be delivered after obtaining a delivery permit from the Ministry. This category shall not be allowed to trade in agricultural seeds.

Article (5)

The seed companies shall be licensed to import, export and trade seeds from the main agricultural directorates in the governorates according to the following conditions:

- Be an agricultural company registered in the Ministry of Industry and Trade and authorized to carry out agricultural activities.
- B. Be affiliated with the Agricultural Merchants Association.
- C- The owner or one of the owners of the company is a Jordanian agricultural engineer. In case the owner of the company is not scientifically qualified, he must contract with a full-time agricultural engineer to work with the company according to the following conditions:

1. Be a member of the Agricultural Engineers Association
2. Be specialized in plant production, general division, or plant protection, or have experience of not less than 3 years if he is a holder of other agricultural specialties as stated in this article.

D. Documents submitted for the purpose of licensing:

- Certified copy of the company's certificate of registration at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.
- Valid annual certificate of subscription in the Agricultural Merchants Association.
- Certified copy of the scientific certificate.
- Valid certificate of practicing a profession issued by the Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association for the agricultural engineer in the applicant company.
- Copy of the ID card of the engineer and the owners of the company.
- Copy of the employment contract signed between the applicant company and the agricultural engineer, certified by the official authority.
- Report from the directorate of agriculture in the concerned area about the availability of a suitable place for seed sale and storage.
- Certificate of experience of 3 years for the agricultural engineer from disciplines other than those mentioned in item 2 of paragraph C of this article.
- Registration deed and / or title deed of the real estate or approved lease contract for tenants.

Article (6)

A. Seed shops shall be licensed by the directorates of agriculture in the governorates and districts according to the following conditions:

1. The place shall be suitable for seed sale and storage.
2. The owner of the shop shall be specialized in any specialty in agricultural sciences and be a member of the Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association. In case the owner of the shop is not scientifically qualified, he must contract with a qualified, full time agricultural engineer to work in the shop according to this article.

3. Graduates of agricultural institutes with two years' experience and graduates of the general secondary agricultural certificate with three years' experience are entitled to license a seed shop, but may not supervise the shops owned by others.

4. Be registered in the Ministry of Industry and Trade and authorized to practice agricultural activity.

B. Documents to be submitted for licensing purposes:

- Certified copy of the scientific certificate of the shop owner or the supervisor.
- Valid certificate of practicing the profession for the agricultural engineer.
- Certificate of experience for graduates of agricultural institutes and graduates of the general secondary agricultural certificate.
- Copy of the employment contract signed between the shop owner and the supervisor contracted with, certified by the official authority.
- Certified copy of the ID card of the owner and the supervisor.
- Certified copy of the certificate of shop registration at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.
- Registration deed of and / or title deed of the property or lease contract for tenant.
- Report from the directorate of agriculture in the concerned region on the availability of a suitable place for storage and sale of seeds.

Article (7)

Mushroom farms shall be licensed for the purposes of the production, import and export of mushrooms and spores in accordance with the following conditions: -

1. The area on which the farm is located shall not be less than 10 dunums outside the organizational area.

2. Registered in the Ministry of Industry and Trade and authorized to practice agricultural activity.

3. The owner of the farm is a Jordanian agricultural engineer according to the following conditions:

(A) A member of the Agricultural Engineers Association and a full-time worker in the farm.

(B) Specialized in plant production, general division or plant protection, or have at least 3 years of experience if he / she is a holder of other agricultural disciplines. If the owner of the farm is not scientifically qualified, he / she shall contract with a qualified agricultural engineers stated in this article.

4. The farm shall contain the following buildings:

- Three isolated, air-conditioned production rooms, with a room area of not less than 100 square meters containing metal shelves, cement floor or tile and a watercourse
- Refrigerated room of not less than (25) square meters for storage of production.
- Management building consisting of an office, a place for the rest of the workers and accessories.

5. Availability of water source.

6. Availability of a cesspit for the water outflow.

7. Refrigerator for spore storage.

8. The following documents shall be submitted for licensing purposes:

1. Copy of the certificate of farm registration at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

2. Certified copy of scientific certificate.

3. Valid certificate of practicing the profession issued by the Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association for the agricultural engineer in the applicant company.

4. Copy of the ID card of the engineer and the owners of the company.

5. Copy of the contract of employment signed between the company and the agricultural engineer, certified by the official authority.
6. Certificate of experience of three years for the agricultural engineer from other disciplines.
7. Report from the directorate of agriculture in the concerned area.
8. Registration deed and / or title deed of the property or lease contract for tenants.

Article (8):

A spore lab shall be licensed according to the following conditions:

1. The building shall consist of five rooms separated from the production rooms:
 - Small room for personal sterilization with an area of not less than 1m x 1m.
 - Room of not less than 5x5 m for storage, washing and flipping.
 - Room of not less than 3x3 m for sterilization and boiling, which contains autoclave device with floor and walls made of ceramic.
 - Room of not less than 2x3 m for injection, with floor and walls made of ceramic and contains luminal flow device.
 - Room of not less than 3x4 m for incubator.
2. The following equipment shall be available:
 - Refrigerator of a suitable size.
 - Sensitive balance.
 - Microscope.
 - Autoclave of not less than 150 liters.
 - Luminal flow of 1.5 m length and 1 m height.
3. Water source and drainage.
4. The laboratory shall be far away from the production premises if it is in the same farm.

Article (9)

Licenses issued by the directorates of agriculture under these instructions shall be valid for a period of one year from the first of January to the end day of December of the same year, regardless of the date on which the license was issued. The license shall be annually renewed by the directorates of agriculture in the governorates and districts, according to the region, after verifying that the documents are complete and include a valid lease contract if the owner of the facility is a tenant. The period between the first of January and the end of March each year shall be set for renewal of the license.

Article (10)

The fees of licensing and renewal of licenses for the facilities mentioned in these instructions shall be collected by virtue of the applicable agricultural services allowance decision. In case of delay in renewing the annual license after the date specified in Article (9) of these instructions, the violator shall be punished under the provisions of Article 18 / F of Agriculture Law No. (13) For the year 2015 and its amendments.

Article (11)

If the license is lost or destroyed, the concerned agriculture director shall issue a new replacement license, with payment of the allowance stated in the effective agricultural services allowance decision. The new license shall be effective for the remainder of the relevant fiscal year.

Article (12)

The owner of the company, the shop, the mushroom farm or the spore laboratory shall inform the concerned directorate of agriculture in the event of dissolution or termination of the contract with the agricultural supervisor engineer, provided that he corrects the situation within one month from the date of dissolution or termination of that contract, otherwise the license shall be null and the fines stated in the applicable Agriculture Law shall be due.

Article (13)

The company or shop shall comply with the following:

- Refrain from selling or trading any seeds not registered in the ministry, not imported by official channels and not inspected the official approved inspection.
- The owner of the place of sale shall undertake to provide a daily sales record showing the day-to-day sales of the seeds, the names of the farmers to whom they were sold, the varieties and the quantities. This record shall be available upon request by the competent employee authorized by the Ministry, who shall be informed of seed movement through the computer.
- It is necessary to place the whole seed packages packed on shelves far away from sunlight, pesticides, fertilizers or any other conditions that adversely affect the quality of the seeds and in a visible place.
- The seeds shall be stored properly at appropriate temperature.
- Prices for selling seeds shall be shown clearly on the price tag.

Article (14)

- The Ministry shall be entitled to carry out the genetic modification inspection for the consignments of imported and locally produced seeds including samples, if necessary, at the expense of the importer.
- The import of non-commercial seed varieties in non-commercial quantities for the purposes of experiments shall be allowed, with writing on samples "For the purposes of experiments" and "Not for sale" and providing a document proving that the varieties are not genetically modified according to the quantities shown in the following table, with a maximum of three times, noting that the varieties of these species shall be registered for commercial trade purposes:

Crop	Quantity Allowed To Be Imported For One Time For Each Variety	Quantity Allowed For The Next Times Before Registration For Each Variety
Tomato, pepper, eggplant	Up to 500 grams	Up to 1500 grams
Cauliflower, cabbage, turnips	Up to 1500 grams	Up to 5000 grams
Beetroot, lettuce, broccoli, radish, squash, pumpkin, okra	Up to 5 kg	Up to 20 kg
Watermelon, melon, open field cucumber, onions, carrots	Up to 5 kg	Up to 15 kg
Zucchini, spinach, peas, cowpea, corn	Up to 100 kg	Up to 200 kg
Molokhia	Up to 50 kg	Up to 150 kg
Broad beans, string beans	Up to 100 kg	Up to 300 kg
cucumber (Parthenocarpic)	Up to 500 grams	Up to 5000 grams

Article (15)

It shall not be allowed to trade imported, locally produced agricultural seeds in commercial quantities unless they have been inspected by the competent laboratories affiliated with the Ministry and the National Center for Agricultural Research or any laboratories approved by the Ministry for this purpose, in order to determine germination rates and purity rates for the crops specified by the ministry, provided that all seeds are subject to the instructions of plant quarantine

Article (16)

The Ministry may conduct any inspection to indicate that the imported seeds are free of pests. Seeds shall only be allowed to be traded after the result of the required inspection.

Article (17)

It shall be allowed to import seeds of agricultural crops for unregistered varieties from the categories mentioned in paragraphs (A) and (B) of Article (4) of these instructions in the following cases:

1. for the purposes of exporting seeds to foreign markets.
2. for the purposes of local cultivation and the export of the product to foreign markets.

Article (18)

it shall be allowed to clear imported seeds after their arrival at the border centers, according to the following procedures:

- Samples of the seeds imported for commercial purposes shall be taken by the officer at the border center so that they represent the variety and the lot number. Samples shall then be sealed and sent by an official letter to the Directorate of Plant Production in order to be checked and to ensure that they conform to the conditions related to the label stated in these instructions. The sample shall then be approved by the ministry and sent, wholly or partially, to the inspection authority after payment of the allowance for the necessary tests. The importer shall then be granted a permit by the Ministry to receive the seeds, by virtue of a legal declaration of the value of the consignment, in which the owner undertakes not to dispose of the consignment until the results of the laboratory inspection appear. In case the consignment violates the instructions in force, it shall be re-exported or destroyed at the expense of the importer. Samples of seed varieties received for experimental purposes shall only be taken when necessary.

Article (19)

The specification of samples shall be as follows:

- The sample shall represent the variety and the lot number.
- B. A complete, intact and closed package shall be taken and sealed with the seal of the relevant border center on more than one side (a bag or box of any kind containing 500 to 1000 seeds).
- C. In the case of seeds received in large packages, the following table shall be adopted for the weight of the sample:

Species	Weight
Tomato, pepper, eggplant	5 g
Cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce, broccoli, onion	10 g
Turnip, beetroot, radish, carrots	100 g
Squash, pumpkin, okra, watermelon, melon, cucumber, zucchini, spinach	200 g
Peas, cowpea, corn, Molokhia, broad beans, string beans	1000 g

Article (20)

The following documents shall be attached to the imported seed consignment with copies of them to be sent with the sample letter to the Ministry:

- A. Certificate of origin.
- B. Phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin.
- C. Invoice clearly showing quantities and varieties.

Article (21)

A. Seed germination rates shall not be less than those shown in the table below for the seeds imported, produced or locally stored by the seed selling companies and shops:

Species	Minimum Germination Rate Allowed For Imported Seed	Minimum Germination Rate Allowed For Produced And Stored Seed
Cucumber, turnip, peas, broad beans	80%	75%
Tomato, zucchini, corn, melon, string beans, lettuce, squash, cabbage, pumpkin, cowpea	75%	70%
Pepper, eggplant, watermelon, radish, cauliflower, onion, broccoli, molokhia, clover, beetroot	70%	65%
Carrot, okra, spinach	65%	60%

B. The germination rates of the seeds produced or locally stored at the seed selling companies and shops shall be estimated by a sample taken by a representative of the Ministry who calculates the quantity at the site by virtue of a record signed by the concerned person, stating that he will not dispose of these quantities until the result of the inspection appears. If the germination rate is below the permissible limits, the quantities collected shall be seized and destroyed in the presence of the concerned person and at his expense, or be exported by him or be given a time out to deal with them, if possible. The quantities shall then be re-inspected for germination at his own expense. If the rate is still below the permissible limits, quantities counted shall be seized and destroyed in the presence of the concerned person and at his expense, or shall be exported by him.

C. The germination of produced or locally stored seeds shall be inspected either at the request of the trader or the producer, or at the request of the employee in charge at the directorates of agriculture or at the competent authority in the

ministry. A complete, intact and closed package shall be taken and sealed with the seal of the concerned directorate.

D. The germination inspection shall be allowed to be repeated once at the request of the importer, producer or trader for the same sample and at the expense of the concerned person.

E. The minimum germination rate allowed for the crops not listed in paragraph (a) of this Article shall be specified by the Ministry based on available scientific documents.

Article (22)

- A duly certified certificate shall be attached by the responsible party in the country of origin that the molokhia and alfalfa crops are free from dodder seeds.
- Notwithstanding what is stated in paragraph (A) of this Article, imported mulukhiya and clover seeds shall be subject to seed inspection to ensure that they are completely free from dodder seeds. The non-conforming seeds shall be re-exported to the country of origin or destroyed at the importer's request and at his expense.
- It shall be allowed to enter molokhia and clover seeds to the kingdom, only after the result of dodder seed purity inspection and at the expense of the importer or the producer.
- The Ministry shall be entitled to conduct purity inspection for any other crop or any other inspection as necessary.

Article (23)

Seed packages shall hold a label in either Arabic or English or both from the country of origin and shall include the following information:

- Name of exporting and importing company
- Name of country of origin
- Name of crop
- Name of variety
- Net quantity of the package
- Date of packing or production.
- Germination rate
- Purity rate
- Registration number in the Ministry
- If the seed is chemically treated, a warning shall be placed on the package.
- If the seed is coated, this shall be indicated on the package.
- Lot number

Article (24)

It shall not be allowed to change the labels affixed to packages.

Article (25)

The categories allowed to import the seeds are entitled to import them through the post offices and the seeds shall only be delivered after the importer receives a delivery permit from the Ministry.

Article (26)

It shall not be allowed to enter the seeds with passengers, unless they are imported under prior approval, and shall be seized at the border center. The seeds shall only be delivered after obtaining delivery permit from the Ministry.

Article (27)

The seeds of agricultural crops shall be exported according to the following principles:

- Licensed seed companies and seed production companies shall be permitted to export the agricultural crops seeds (the imported and the locally produced) registered in Jordan out of the Kingdom without prior export permission from the Ministry, provided that the competent authorities in the Ministry grant the certificates required by the importing country, including:
 - 1- Seed germination certificate based on germination inspection upon importation or production of seed for a maximum period of six months, or carrying out a new germination inspection for this purpose after more than six months of the first inspection.
 - 2- Certificate from the ministry indicating the quantities exported and the names of the varieties for the locally produced crops.
 - 3- Phytosanitary certificate.
- Regional seed offices shall be permitted to export seeds for experimental purposes without the prior permission of the Ministry.

Article (28)

Seed companies shall be permitted to import onion kernels for commercial purposes, and for agricultural purposes for farmers, according to the following principles:

1. Obtaining a prior import permit from the competent authority in the Ministry for the farmers by virtue of a letter from the concerned agriculture director, indicating the

areas to be planted by the farmers.

2. Attaching an invoice from the country of origin clearly indicating the name and quantity of the variety, duly certified Phytosanitary certificate and certificate of origin, and a commitment from the concerned person not to mix the varieties.

3. The onion kernel shall be subject to a virtual inspection by the Ministry to show that it meets the required sizes, with a diameter not exceeding (0.8 cm-4 cm) and by 5% permission for the upper or lower limits. The Ministry may carry out the necessary laboratory inspections and a delivery permit shall be granted in case of passing the necessary inspections. Otherwise, the variety shall be re-exported or destroyed at the expense of the importer.

Article (29)

Seed companies, production nurseries and flowering plants shall be permitted to import various floral vesicles, subject to virtual inspection by the Ministry. The Ministry may perform the required laboratory inspection and give a delivery permit in case of passing the required inspections. Otherwise, they shall be re-exported or destroyed at the expense of the importer.

Article (30)

Production companies and production nurseries shall be allowed to import various fruitful, forest and pastoral tree seeds after obtaining the prior approval of the Ministry. Production nurseries shall also be allowed to import their needs of the ornamental plant seeds and the farmers of the cut flowers shall be allowed to import their needs of the cut flowers seeds. The shops selling ornamental plants and their seeds shall be allowed to import their needs of the ornamental plant seeds.

Article (31)

Seed companies and grain growers shall be allowed to import field crop seeds for agricultural purposes after obtaining prior approval of the Ministry and within the following approved standards:

- Genetic purity rate not less than 95%
- 2 - Analytical purity rate not less than 95%
- 3. Germination rate not less than 95%
- 4. Seeds free from insects and diseases.
- 5. Seeds free from grass seeds and dodder seeds.
- 6. Seeds chemically treated.
- 7. Packages contain labels indicating variety, germination rate, country of origin, date of production and transactions performed.
- 8. Samples inspected in a laboratory to verify the previously mentioned specifications at the expense of the importer.

Article (32)

Anyone who violates these instructions or any of their articles shall be punished under Article 18 of the Agriculture Law No. (13) for the year 2015 and its amendments.

Article (33)

Any instructions inconsistent with the provisions of these instructions shall be canceled.

Minister of Agriculture

Dr. Akef Al –Zoubi

